



November 2025
THINK PIECE



Flying High
English Hubs



Department
for Education

AUTHENTIC SUPPORTIVE CHALLENGING

“We’ve got lots of children who are learning GPCs but aren’t yet blending. How can we support them?”



Katy Armstrong
English Hub Lead

At the English Hub, this is a question we are frequently asked. The answer is relatively simple: practice, practice, practice and then practice some more. We know that some children find it easier to hear sounds and blend them into words than others. For those children who find this skill tricky, lots of repetition is required.



The first exposure of every day is in the phonics lesson. I recommend that Reading Leads coach their team to ensure that the oral blending and word blending aspects of the lesson are high quality and that the children have plenty of practice in these parts of the session.



The second blending practice of the day would be to implement your SSP’s blending intervention – this could be delivered as a small group or one-to-one depending on your cohort and their needs.



Another opportunity would be to implement an extra blending practice sessions with the whole class. Using the oral blending and word blending resources from the morning’s phonics lesson, take 5-10 minutes out of your afternoon and repeat this practice or, if your SSP offers it, use their child-friendly blending videos.



Whilst the children access continuous provision, target children for extra practice between their self-chosen tasks. This could be through games like ‘Simon says’ e.g. Simon says touch your ch-i-n. Can you h-o-p? Just 2 minutes is all that’s needed! When giving instructions throughout the day, include an element of blending e.g. Put on your c-oa-t, find a green p-e-n.

Implementing these additional practices will mean that you children have at least 4 chances to practice their blending every day and will soon be blending independently.



For more support on getting your children **blending** and also strategies to **support children with SEND** to learn phonics, join one of our **Early Reading Leads Networks**

**Book
Here**





Upcoming CPL

NETWORK

EARLY READING LEADS



Early Reading
Leads

Date

TUESDAY
20th
NOVEMBER
1.30pm-4pm
In Person



[Book Here](#)

Join Katy, our Hub Lead, for an afternoon of networking with other Early Reading Leads and refining practice to ensure phonics teaching is of the highest quality.

This session will focus on supporting all children to be able to blend and strategies to support children with more complex needs.



FACILITATOR



Katy Armstrong

Flying High English Hub
Lead

VIRTUAL

AUTHOR VISIT

With Swappna Haddow



Year 2, 3 & 4
Classrooms

Date

FRIDAY
28th
NOVEMBER
10am-11am
Virtual



[Book Here](#)

We are delighted to announce that Swappna Haddow will be joining us (all the way from New Zealand!) for our next Virtual Author Classroom Visit!

During this session, Swappna, author of the Dave Pigeon and Bad Panda series (amongst many others) will share some of her books and the process that she takes when writing them. Audience- Suitable for children in Y2, Y3 and Y4.





2025-26 PROGRAMMES

READING

AMBITION FOR ALL

Teaching children who need the most support



Headteachers, English
Leads, Reading Leads,
SENDCo's & Senior
Leaders



[Book Here](#)

We want to teach every child to read!

This programme explores the appropriate teaching, support and provision of phonics teaching for children not reading at age-related expectations, with a particular focus on those with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It draws on the latest research about how children learn to read and effective approaches to teaching those who need specific adaptations to make progress.

The programme will enable participants to confidently assess, plan and teach reading to all children using the guidance and resources from their chosen SSP programme.



FACILITATORS



Emma Pye

Flying High Inclusion Lead
Practitioner



Angelina Brett

Flying High English Hub
Literacy Specialist

5 Sessions:				
Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 9am-4pm	WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 1.30pm-4pm	WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 1.30pm-4pm	WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 1.30pm-4pm	THURSDAY 25th JUNE 1.30pm-4pm

TEACHER

READING GROUPS

Support to develop Reading for Pleasure in your classroom



Teachers,
librarians, student
teachers and
support staff



[Book Here](#)

In conjunction with the Open University and UKLA, the Teachers' Reading Group will support delegates in developing an understanding of RfP pedagogy, developing evidence-informed practice and widening their knowledge of the stunning literature and the other texts written for children.

Designed for any school adults who wish to further develop their skills and expertise in developing reading for pleasure.



FACILITATOR



Katy Armstrong

Flying High English Hub
Lead

5 Sessions:				
Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 4pm-5.30pm	THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 4pm-5.30pm	THURSDAY 19th MARCH 4pm-5.30pm	THURSDAY 7th MAY 4pm-5.30pm	WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE 4pm-5.30pm



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Writing Framework: Key Messages webinar Series

Following the release of The Writing Framework in July 2025, Hub Lead Katy is hosting a series of webinars to support understanding of its key messages and to support implementation of the guidance in school.



Missed the first session?

The previous sessions of this series are available to watch on our YouTube channel.

Webinar 1- Teaching the Foundations

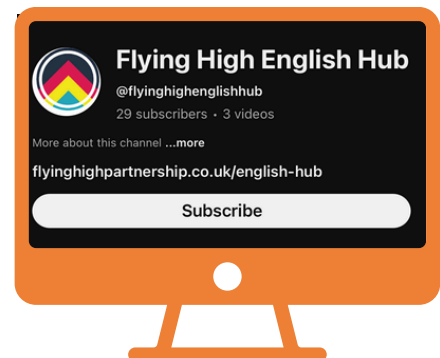
English Leads

WATCH VIDEO

Webinar 2- Leadership and Management

English Leads & Senior Leaders

WATCH VIDEO



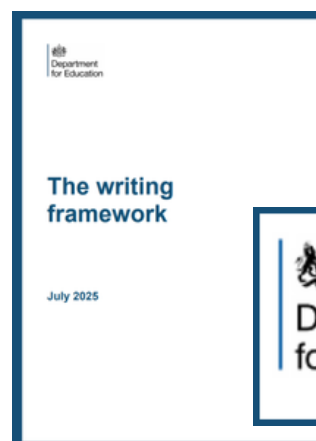
Upcoming

Webinar 3- The importance of Reception

Tuesday 25th November
16:00-17:00

English Leads & Early
Years Teachers

BOOK NOW



For more information about any of these events, please email
englishhub@flyinghightrust.co.uk



**Flying High
English Hub**

English Hub  Department
for Education

Showcase Event

Discover the available support & funding

Do you need to replenish your stock of decodable reading books?

Do you need additional resources to deliver your SSP effectively?

Do you have new staff who require additional training which comes at a cost?

At Flying High English Hub, we can offer up to **£6000** of funding to support schools in purchasing the necessary resources to deliver your SSP to the highest standard.

If your school would benefit from specialist support to develop the teaching of phonics and early reading, we can also offer up to 12 days of support over 2 years.

Our showcase events are an opportunity to explore:

- Best practice in phonics teaching in Reception and Key Stage 1.
- How language and English skills are embedded throughout the school.
- How to develop innovative ways of ensuring that children love reading – throughout their education.

These events include classroom visits and an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the future support you can access from Flying High English Hub.

Katy Armstrong

English Hub Lead



For enquiries or assistance please email
englishhub@flyinghightrust.co.uk



Horsendale Primary School,
Assarts Road, Nuthall, Nottingham,
NG16 1AP



**School headteacher &
Reading Leader**



[Book via this link](#)

“

**The Showcase was invaluable!
Connecting with colleagues and learning
from the English Hub's Phonics support
will be key to improving outcomes for our
children.**

Headteacher
Nottingham School Trust

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AUTHOR IN

THE SPOTLIGHT

Zohra Nabi

Award-winning children's author!

If you want stories that grab your students from page one, Zohra Nabi is a fantastic choice. Her books mix adventure, mystery and magic with themes that really matter: identity, justice, and belonging.

They're exciting but they also spark big conversations about the world and open doors to empathy and cultural understanding. Zohra's books are ideal for readers aged 9–12 who love fantasy, mystery or strong heroines.



Exciting opportunities!

Could your school be eligible to receive **FREE books** to help promote **Reading for Pleasure**? Don't miss out on this opportunity.

LIBRARIES
for PRIMARIES

Libraries for Primaries: Applications for the National Literacy Trust's fully-funded Libraries for Primaries programme are now open for the 2025/26 academic year. If you are a state-funded primary school without a library or dedicated reading space, you could be eligible to receive a package of books, resources, training and support worth over £6500 to help you establish a school library.



We are looking for schools who have strong practice in early writing who would like to showcase their work for others. If this sounds like something your school would be interested in, please complete this expression of interest form.

Complete
expression of
interest form

